

My name is David Hoyt of Bristol

I am currently employed at O.F. Mossberg in N. Haven. I also have an FFL and a small gun repair shop in Southington. I have been involved in firearms or firearms related industry for over thirty years. First of all I am very disgusted with Governor Malloy on his position that he does not care about the firearms manufacturers in this state. The industry has as you have heard over the last few weeks constitute a large number of employees directly employed by firearms companies, but support industries as well. It would be a huge hit to the state's economy to lose this industry from the state.

As far as passing meaningful legislation to curb gun violence, a ban on so called assault weapons would have no effect; it has been proven by the 1994 ban. The fact is assault weapons are not the weapon of choice for most of the gun violence we see on our streets today. It is most often a hand gun obtained illegally by a gang member or carrier criminal that would not be able, under our current laws to legally own a firearm. That is where we need to look to stop these crimes. To institute a ban would punish millions of law abiding citizens and have no effect on the criminals. We need to be looking in the areas of keeping the firearms out of the criminal hands. Also out of the hands of the mentally unstable individuals that have been the root of the problem as I see it. We need to find ways to prevent anyone except law abiding responsible citizens are allowed to possess firearms. I feel that background checks are necessary for all gun purchases, no matter where they are sold. There also needs to be more control on the part of firearms owners to keep their firearms secure and severe penalties for those that do not. If Mrs. Lanza had her firearms locked away and unavailable to her son she may very well still be alive as well as the 26 others that paid the price for her irresponsible actions. We as citizens have a responsibility also to not let firearms fall into the wrong hands.

Banning so called assault rifles will punish the vast majority of responsible law abiding firearms owners and nothing to curb gun violence. Just look to Chicago as proof.